13th March 1928]

Publication of the Government reviews of the district board and municipal administration reports.

* 1716 Q.—The RAJA OF RAMNAD: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent times the Government reviews of the district board and municipal administration reports do not embody such reports as part thereof;

(b) whether the Government ever considered the desirability of printing a consolidated report, one relating to all the district boards and the other relating to all the municipalities, so that a comparative study of the progress made in the various district boards and municipalities may be available to the public; and if not, why not;

(c) why the Government, before accepting or adopting the remarks made by the Collectors of the districts in forwarding the administration reports of district boards and municipalities, do not communicate those remarks to the heads of local bodies concerned and obtain their say in the matter before accepting or adopting those remarks?

A.—(a) Yes. From 1921-22 the reviews alone are published by Government as the reports are published by the local bodies themselves in the district gazettes.

(b) The Government already issue annual reports, one on the working of the district municipalities and the other on the working of local boards in the Presidency.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to sub-section (1) of section 33 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and to G.O. No. 3534, L. & M., dated 15th December 1924, published on page 2 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 6th January 1925. From the latter it will be observed that Collectors send to the municipal councils concerned copies of the remarks made by them on the administration reports at the same time as they forward the reports to Government and that 15 days time is allowed to councils to make their observations, if any. The Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, contains no provision corresponding to sub-section (1) of section 33 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920. Collectors have, however, been recently asked to send to the district boards concerned copies of their remarks on the reports of those boards at the same time as they send them to Government.

Agriculture

Appointment of agricultural demonstrators.

* 1717 Q.—The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state in what districts he proposes to appoint the ten demonstrators sanctioned by this Council under Supplementary Grant XXII on 1st November 1927?

A.—The matter is engaging the attention of the Director of Agriculture.